

10th March 1959]

SRI A. A. RASHEED : May I know Sir, whether the Government have received any protest from the Kerala Government against this ban on the movement of paddy?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : This Government have not yet received any protest from the Kerala Government. And that it is not the way the State Governments function. Of course, I have seen press reports that certain mill-owners in Palghat have protested.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, are the Government aware of the fact that due to the flow out of this rice as well as paddy, which has been since banned, a scarcity has been created in our State with the consequent rise in prices? Will the Government advise the Central Government to fix the price of paddy as well as rice in the Kerala State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : So far as this State is concerned, rice control is enforced, and there cannot be legally any rise in price. Now price control is sought to be effectively enforced in this State.

Running of lorries during nights

* 8 S.N.Q.—**SRI A. A. RASHEED :** Will the Hon. the Minister for Electricity be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the running of lorries during nights has been banned by the Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) Yes, Sir. Between the hours 12 midnight and 4 a.m.

(b) The ban is imposed in the interest of public safety.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Sir, is it a fact that the ban has been imposed to curtail competition against the railways?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I really thank the hon. Member for putting this question. There are interested parties who have started to give their own interpretation to the ban that has been imposed. But this Hon. House knows that there has been a huge agitation against the lorry menace, particularly during the nights. This subject was discussed in this House, in the other House, and in the various institutions. Even the workers said that the lorry traffic should be banned during the hours between midnight and the early hours of the morning. So, it is purely in the interests of public safety that we have taken this drastic measure.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that perishables like vegetables and fruits can safely be transported only during the night? Will the Government relax the rules for the conveyance of perishables during nights?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Perishables can also be safely transported during day time.

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SRI M. JAGANNATHAN : Sir, may I know what action is being taken to detect persons who contravene this ban, and how they are dealt with?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : The police are on the lookout.

SRI S. M. ANNAMALAI : ராத்திரியில் லாரி போக்கு வரத்தைத் தடுத்திருப்பதினால் பகலில் பஸ் போக்கு வரத்துக்குக் கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பதை அரசாங்கம் உணர்ந்திருக்கிறதா?

THE HON SRI V. RAMAIAH : ஒரு குறுகிய நேரத்திற்குதான் தடை விதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இதனால் பகல் நேரங்களில் பஸ் போக்கு வரத்துக்கு எந்த விதமான இடைஞ்சலும் இருக்காது என்று நம்புகிறேன்.

Gramasevaks

* 660 Q.—**SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :** Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state the reasons for excluding the recruitment of Gramasevaks from the purview of the Madras Public Service Commission?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The posts of Gramasevaks are still within the purview of the Madras Public Service Commission.

Fair price shops

* 661 Q.—**SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR :** Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(a) the number of fair price shops for the sale of wheat at present district-war; and

(b) the quantity of wheat sold in the respective districts through these shops in 1958?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) The number of fair price shops for sale of wheat that were functioning in this State as on the 31st December 1958 was 469. The districtwar details of the shops are given in the statement^a placed on the table of the House.

(b) Till the 1st March 1958, both rice and wheat were sold through fair price shops. After that date, wheat alone is being sold from these shops. Details of the monthwar off-take of wheat from the fair price shops during the period from March to December 1958 are furnished in the statement placed on the table of the House.

* 662 Q.—**SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR :** Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state the manner and the rate at which rice was obtained for fair price shops in 1958?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The rice required for distribution through fair price shops was being supplied by the Government of India up to 28th February 1958. The rice